



# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication to the citizens of Culpeper County by the Board of Supervisors. It is designed to present and provide information about issues affecting those who live in Culpeper. Approximately 17,000 copies are distributed, one to each mail address in Town, County, and to each U.S.P.S. Box within the Town and County of Culpeper.

The newsletter is also available online at

[www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov)

Comments and suggestions may be emailed to:

[dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:dhoffman@culpepercounty.gov)

ISSUE EIGHTEEN

WINTER 2004

## A Message from the Board of Supervisors

Dear Citizens:

Best wishes to all of you this holiday season. Another election season has passed, and although there were no local government positions being decided, there was one local tax issue on the ballot. The food and beverage tax was defeated, perhaps because our citizens did not have a full appreciation of its potential benefits. I would like to briefly explain the reasoning for that proposition. Culpeper County is growing, and sources of revenue other than real estate tax are needed. A meals and lodging tax, which as proposed would apply only outside of the Town limits (the Town already has such a tax in place), would provide some potential relief to rising real estate taxes and would generate revenue from visitors to the area. In many respects, it would be a "user tax". The citizens have spoken, and we respect the voters' choice. However, with new restaurants projected and possibly new hotels, this is an issue that most likely will be considered again in the future.

Please visit the Culpeper County web site at [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) when you have a chance. You can see photos of the progress being made on the Culpeper Community Complex youth sports facility. Soon, you will be able to view the initial draft of the new Comprehensive Plan which is being developed by the Planning staff and the Planning Commission. We try to keep the website current and informative.

We are entering the budget season again and, as usual, we will face many challenges and difficult choices. Your input is always appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Board of Supervisors or the County Administrator if you have comments, questions, or concerns.

For the Board,

Steven L. Walker, Vice Chairman  
East Fairfax

William C. Chase, Jr.  
Stevensburg

Sue D. Hansohn  
Catalpa

James C. Lee  
Cedar Mountain

Brad Rosenberger  
Jefferson

Steven E. Nixon  
West Fairfax

John F. Coates, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors  
Salem District

Meetings of the Board of Supervisors are held the first Tuesday of each month: at 10 a.m. for general County business and at 7 p.m. for a public forum, planning business and public hearings. Agendas are available prior to the meetings at the Library, on the County website at [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) and minutes are available following the meetings. Video coverage is provided by Channel 21.

CULPEPER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:  
A REPORT FROM THE DESK OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

It seems like I just hit the enter button to wrap up the summer article, and here it is a few days until Christmas. A lot has happened since then, and I wanted to share a few thoughts with you as we move into winter.

Recreation

The work is still progressing, and in the spring we will see the grass begin to grow at the new Community Complex. Our Parks and Recreation staff, under the leadership of John Barrett, is happily dividing its time between watching over the construction and planning for its use.

Education

I don't think there is a single person reading this column that hasn't heard that we are in the process of designing and building a new school. As I write this, the architect is busy designing a flexible implementation High School that could hold as many as 1500 students. Additionally, SHW architects are studying Culpeper Middle School (1350 capacity) and Culpeper High School (1525 capacity), which have a combined capacity of 2,875, to determine if it is feasible to construct a state of the art, 2400 student complex while fully utilizing the current capacity assets. This plan will also require building a new middle school and a new elementary school. Of course, like any other proposal, it must be fully studied, and we are hopeful that results will be available soon.

As in any large investment, there is a large amount of data to be considered. When you have that kind of need for data, there is always the opportunity for misinformation. As an example, there was a piece written by a guest columnist in a local paper that stated that each new house would bring 2 students per household. That is a highly exaggerated number as compared to surrounding counties and Northern Virginia. Stafford and Fauquier are at .72 students per household. Our numbers, derived by measuring certificates of occupancy and comparing them to new enrollments, yield .39 students per household. This number could change as we see different types of homes being built in the community. We should not consider this paltry growths however, since 1000 new houses would yield 390 new students. Conversely at 2 students per household, we would gain 2000 new students.

That is why getting the numbers right, and a methodology in place to trigger future spending for schools and other infrastructure, is very important.

In the meantime, the School Oversight Committee will begin reviewing all of the various projections of student population to determine a common usable set of numbers from which to draw a long term action plan for all school space needs in the future. The important thing to remember is that while all plans are being studied, pro-

gress continues. As a matter of practicality, the question of affordability and the timing sequence will drive completion of these projects. Let's look at what the needs are so far.

1. More High School Space (New or Renovated)
2. Renovation of the Old High School
3. Elementary School
4. Renovated Elementary School

Consider the proposal from SHW architects to build the new school and renovate the old schools at a cost of over \$84 million. The tax rate will increase to over \$1.20 including operational costs. The issue here continues to be balancing the other needs in the County with proposed school construction program.

GROWTH

Growth has implications in other areas as well.

Let me outline a few of the other items that merit consideration. First, and probably foremost, is a new jail to alleviate overcrowding conditions. There are limitations imposed on jail populations by state and federal regulations. As it stands now, we are transporting prisoners in order to be in compliance.

The Courthouse currently houses the General District Court, the Circuit Court, the Juvenile, the Domestic Relations Court, the Clerk of Court, as well as the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. As growth continues to impinge upon us, the need for new court space is very evident. Also housed in the Courthouse are the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer. Needless to say, growth has a tremendous impact in these two offices as well. About a year ago we reached agreement with the Town of Culpeper to lease the old town offices. This will help in that we can now move the Commonwealth's Attorney and make some room for badly needed space in the Courthouse for the short term. In the next 7 to 10 years we must program for the changes that need to take place in these areas as well. A long-term integrated financial plan will be needed that incorporates not only school construction but all of these other needs as well.

As Culpeper continues to grow, the role of the citizen will become increasingly more important, and the role of government will evolve. We pride ourselves in being the kind of government that reaches out to the constituency. We have many challenges to face in the future, but I believe that the largest is maintaining our steadfast commitment to serve you on a personal level while managing all the implications of growth we have mentioned above. I have said it before, but I believe it is worth repeating, that this is your government, and it works best when we have your input. The Board of Supervisors and the County Staff wish you the very best of the Holiday Season and a very prosperous and Happy New Year.

Frank T. Bossio

Congratulations  
Culpeper County's Employees  
Employee of the Month Awards

July  
Virginia Coppedge  
Clerk of the Court

August  
Cindy Hedges  
Crime Victims

September  
Heather Borders  
Commonwealth's Attorney

October  
Doug Miller  
Environmental Services

CULPEPER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
QUARTERLY REPORT

This is the second edition of the Planning Commission Quarterly Report. Last time around, discussion was limited to the development of the new 2005 Culpeper County Comprehensive Plan. At this time, a draft has been completed by staff and is under review by the Planning Commission. Following their initial review, the draft will be made available on the County web site, and a public participation process will begin. We are still on target to try to have the Plan adopted early in 2005.

One major issue on the Planning Commission agenda recently has been the Clevenger’s Village rezoning proposal submitted by Centex Homes. The proposal requests a Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning which would permit 774 dwelling units and 398,000 square feet of commercial and office development. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the request September 29<sup>th</sup> and unanimously recommended to the Board of Supervisors denial of the rezoning. The major outstanding concerns included the phasing of commercial development and the impact upon County services and facilities.

Another item which has dominated recent Commission business is the renewal of the majority of Culpeper County’s Agricultural and Forestal Districts. Agricultural and Forestal Districts are districts in which property owners voluntarily enroll. Once enrolled, property owners enjoy some limited benefits in return for a commitment not to develop or subdivide the property for the life of the district. Districts run for a period of 8 years, and at the end of the 8-year period owners are given the option of withdrawing, or remaining in the District for an additional 8-year period. Nine of the County’s 14 districts were renewed between August and October. During the renewal process, a total of 4,660 acres were withdrawn, however 39,624 acres were renewed until 2012. The total acreage in all 14 current Agricultural and Forestal Districts is 50,824 acres. All of those property owners enrolled in Agricultural and Forestal Districts should be commended for their commitment to Agriculture and the preservation of open space.

The Culpeper County Planning Commission looks forward to receiving your input in the coming months regarding the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. The Commission also extends its best wishes for the holiday.

GFOA Awards Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

For the fifth consecutive year, the County of Culpeper Finance Department has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the entity had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation.

The Budget Award is valid for a period of one year only. The full FY05 budget document is available for review to all Culpeper County citizens at the County Administration building.

Looking for information regarding the County?  
Try our website at [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov)

Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors

To contact your Supervisor,  
you may email:  
[supervisors@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:supervisors@culpepercounty.gov)  
or call the County  
Administration Office at  
727-3427, or call directly  
as follows:

Chair  
**John F. Coates**  
**547-2619**  
Salem District

Vice Chair  
**Steven L. Walker**  
**825-7716**  
East Fairfax District

**William C. Chase, Jr.**  
**399-1218**  
Stevensburg District

**Sue D. Hansohn**  
**825-1893**  
Catalpa District

**James C. Lee**  
**825-0775**  
Cedar Mountain District

**Brad C. Rosenberger**  
**937-4928**  
Jefferson District

**Steven E. Nixon**  
**825-5768**  
West Fairfax District

**The Board meets  
the 1st Tuesday  
of each month  
10 a.m.  
General County Business  
7 p.m.  
Public Forum  
Planning Business  
Public Hearings**

Agendas are available prior  
to Board Meetings on the  
County Website at  
[www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov)  
and in the  
Culpeper County Library



# Economic Development in Culpeper...



*Over the past several months, Culpeper has witnessed major advancements that will strengthen the local economy through new job creation, an enhanced tax base and improvement to an already outstanding quality of life. These advancements can be summarized as follows:*

### Germanna Community College Center for Advanced Technology

In June, hundreds of local leaders, contributors, state and federal officials looked on as Governor Mark R. Warner and Germanna Community College President Frank Turnage broke ground for the college's \$8 million Center for Advanced Technology. To be built on a 100-acre parcel of donated land, the Center for Advanced Technology was first envisioned in 1998 by a fifty-member citizen task force charged with exploring the needs for advanced technology education and training in the Culpeper area. When completed in the spring of 2006, the Germanna Center for Advanced Technology will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and will provide high quality conferencing and training opportunities for the area. Training labs will be equipped with the latest version of AutoCAD, GIS and Microsoft Office Suite software and offer the flexibility to meet a variety of training needs. Each training and conference room will be equipped with a Symposium that uses Smart technology to turn projected images into interactive touch screens that increase communication and collaboration in teaching, presenting and conferencing. A 750 seat multi-purpose auditorium is also planned. The Center for Advanced Technology will encourage vision and promote experimentation with emerging technologies through partnership with leading industries, government and education. The mission statement of the Center for Advanced Technology is: *to provide the best technological education and training for the modern workforce.* Although the bulk of the funding to construct the center will be derived from a 2002 state educational bond referendum, local donations and contributions were also required to attain full funding of the Center. Private businesses and individuals have paid or pledged over \$450,000. The Town of Culpeper will contribute \$250,000 in cash and has committed \$1.2 million to provide water and sewer service. Culpeper County has pledged \$1 million in cash and has appropriated \$483,000 for the access road to the Center.

### National Audio-Visual Conservation Center

In August 2003, the Packard Humanities Institute, the Library of Congress, and the Architect of the Capitol announced the start of construction on Phase 1 of a two-phase construction project at Mount Pony that will transform the former Federal Reserve facility into the new National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC) operated by the Library of Congress. The Packard Humanities Institute is building the state-of-the-art facility for film and recorded sound preservation. Ownership of the facility will be transferred to the Architect of the Capitol upon completion of construction. NAVCC is composed of four buildings totaling 415,000 square feet of space. The construction on the site and transfer to the government will be in two phases. Phase 1 will include the Collection Building for which the existing Federal Reserve Bank facility will be converted entirely to storage for all sound and non-nitrate moving image holdings of the Library of Congress. Scheduled completion date for Phase 1 is June 2005. Phase 2 consists of the Conservation Building, which will include the new main office building that will house administrative offices, preservation laboratories and a 250-seat theater. The facility will employ 140 workers when it opens. Phase 2 also includes the Nitrate Vaults consisting of 122 newly constructed in-

dividual vaults, within two storage pods, built to meet the exacting requirements for storing nitrate motion picture film. Scheduled completion date for Phase 2 is May 2006. NAVCC will enable the Library of Congress for the first time to consolidate its existing collections in a single centralized facility that also provides space sufficient to house projected collection growth for 25 years thereafter. In addition to the core mission of preserving and providing access to the Library's own collections, the new facility will enable the Library to broaden these services to outside customers and partners in both the public and private sectors. NAVCC will have a significant impact on the Culpeper economy. The direct impact of 140 new jobs – many of which will have salaries that exceed the county's median wage rate, will be immediately apparent. The indirect impact is likely to grow over time and has the potential to exceed the impact of the insitu employment. The indirect impact is likely to include visiting scholars, experts and commercial enterprises in the field of audio-visual preservation, as well as the general public with interest in the films and recordings. There is also the likely possibility that related private business interests might find a location near a national research and preservation facility as an appealing reason to locate in Culpeper. The Library of Congress has entered into several formal and informal agreements with local public and private agencies, institutions and organizations for the exchange of information and services.

### Culpeper Regional Airport

The Culpeper Regional Airport has been a critical and unique component of the County's integrated transportation system and, therefore, important to economic development efforts. Recent physical improvements to the airport, as well as future planned improvements, are likely to enhance the role of air transportation and airport facilities as key elements in attracting and maintaining major business in Culpeper. The extension of the runway from 4,000 feet to 5,000 now allows far greater use of the airport by business aircraft and, potentially, commercial aircraft. With its expanded length, the Culpeper Regional Airport can readily support small and large corporate aircraft. Other improvements to the airport, including repaving of existing surfaces, expanded apron areas, increased hangar space, and upgrades to the navigational systems all serve to promote the Culpeper Regional Airport as a modern air transportation facility. Future plans to modernize the terminal, the addition of restaurant facilities, and the expansion of fixed based operator services will continue to enhance the value of the airport to the community. In its improved configuration, the Culpeper Regional Airport has significantly increased its potential as a key element of the County's economic development strategy. The possibility of attracting a major aviation company or manufacturer is now a reality.

### Structural Systems Inc.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Transportation Board recently announced that Structural Systems, Inc. was awarded a \$288,000 grant from the Industrial, Airport and Rail Access Fund. The grant funds will be used to construct a new rail access siding to the Company's 200,000 square foot facility located in the Town of Culpeper. The new rail siding will result in an expansion of the existing (Continued on page 5)

Department of Economic Development 540-727-3410

## Economic Development *(continued)*



facility that will bring up to 249 new jobs to Culpeper through a capital investment of \$3 million by the Company. Town and County officials worked with Structural Systems, Inc. to locate in Culpeper at the former Keller Manufacturing facility that closed in 2002. The County Board of Supervisors and the Town Council passed separate Resolutions supporting the award of the Rail Access Grant.

### Horizon Data Corporation

A leading provider of information technology services to the federal government and the commercial business sector, Horizon Data opened a Culpeper County office to take advantage of the SBA HUB Zone and the preferences offered on government bidding. The Company responded to a direct marketing campaign aimed at high tech government bidders located in the Northern Virginia and Washington DC areas. Horizon Data's decision to locate in Culpeper underscores the community's ability to attract high-tech companies. Horizon Data provides expertise in information technology communications, telecommunications infrastructure applications, software development, information systems data center support, and technical support. The Company also provides emergency and disaster back-up protection for information systems. Horizon Data expects to employ 20 people on a 24/7 basis.

### Merillat Corporation

Governor Mark R. Warner recently announced the award of a \$150,000 Governor's Opportunity Fund grant to assist the Merillat Corporation in expanding its facility located in the Town of Culpeper. The Governor's grant will be matched with over \$500,000 in assistance from the Town and County of Culpeper. The local assistance will be in the form of tax incentives generated by the Company's investment. Merillat will spend approximately \$13 million in building expansion and new machinery that will result in two new production lines. The Company will create 140 new jobs as a result of this expansion. The Merillat Corporation credited the Governor's Opportunity Fund award and the incentives offered by the Town and County as the decisive factors in choosing Culpeper, over other locations, for the expansion. County officials worked with Merillat and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in developing the Governor's Opportunity Fund application. The Town and County adopted tax incentive programs for new business development and expansion in 2003.

### Lowe's Home Improvement Center

In August of this year Lowe's opened its 95,000 square foot Culpeper Store on Montanus Drive in the County of Culpeper. Under the terms of an incentive agreement negotiated with the County, which was required to locate the store in Culpeper, Lowe's will make a minimum investment of \$10 million and guarantee at least 100 full-time and 40 part-time new jobs. The County will, in turn, repay Lowe's half of the 1% local sales tax that the County receives from sales at the store, up to a maximum of \$2 million. In addition to the new jobs, real and personal property taxes and the portion of the sales tax that the County will keep – all of which would not have occurred without the negotiated incentive agreement, Lowe's will have other positive economic impacts on the community. Culpeper residents, who traveled to other communities to shop at a Lowe's or other home improvement store, now have the convenience of shopping in Culpeper and can keep their spending dollars in the local economy. Lowe's will attract visiting shoppers who might otherwise not have had a reason to visit, shop and discover Culpeper. Finally, Lowe's will attract other businesses that would want to benefit from the drawing

power of a large established retailer. These other businesses – Chili's Restaurant being the first example, will create their own jobs and tax base.

### C. P. Johnson LLC

C. P. Johnson negotiated with Culpeper County for the purchase of 3.5 acres of land in the Culpeper Industrial Airpark. The company is a small woodworking business that specializes in tiger and curly maple products. C. P. Johnson supplies highly customized wood products to string instrument manufacturers, gun manufacturers and period furniture makers. The company will construct a 15,000 square foot millwork and manufacturing facility at its new location, in order to expand its production capabilities.

### The Hoppmann Corporation

The Hoppmann Corporation recently relocated its corporate headquarters to a 50,000 square foot portion of the former Standard Trucking Warehouse in the Culpeper Industrial Airpark. The company designs and manufactures customized packaging machines, automatic feeding machines and labeling machines. The Culpeper facility will house corporate headquarters, corporate engineering and prototype development where Hoppmann will design, engineer and build a prototype machine to customer specifications. Hoppmann also has facilities in Verden, Germany. A critical element in the site selection process was the length of time needed to secure local approvals and the availability of upgraded electrical power and telecommunications. County officials were able to "fast track" the permitting process and utilize their connections with Virginia Dominion Power and Verizon to insure that the relocation was completed in a timely manner. Proximity to the newly expanded Culpeper Regional Airport, and the ability to efficiently bring customers to their facility, was also a factor the Company considered in choosing Culpeper. Hoppmann's new location represents a "reverse commute" business location where jobs, that are usually available to commuters, will now be available in Culpeper. The Company will employ approximately 30 people.

### American Manufacturing Company Inc.

American Manufacturing signaled its intent to relocate to Culpeper County by agreeing to purchase Parcel #13 in the Culpeper Industrial Airpark where it will build a 20,000 to 26,000 square foot manufacturing facility. American Manufacturing had outgrown its Northern Virginia facility and was looking for a new location. County officials successfully convinced the Company to locate in Culpeper. The Company designs and manufactures onsite wastewater treatment products and systems, including electrical control centers, water system controls and related consulting. Many of the products manufactured by the Company have been designed in-house, and American Manufacturing holds the patent rights to many of its commercially successful systems. On site waste water systems are used in rural and suburban areas where public sewer systems are not available. American Manufacturing will employ approximately 40 people with 10 to 15 coming from the Culpeper workforce.

*Prepared by the*

*Culpeper County Department of Economic Development*

**For more information: Contact Carl Sachs, Director of Culpeper County  
Department of Economic Development 540-727-3410  
www: CulpeperBiz.com**



# Culpeper County Library

The Culpeper County Library offers several storytimes.

- Walk-in storytimes each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. and Friday morning at 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday morning storytimes by registration only...
- Sign up for the first storytime session in 2005 is January 4, beginning at 10:00 a.m. when the library opens.

Four classes for toddlers (2-3 year olds) 10:30, 11:00, 11:30 & 12:00.

Two classes for pre-schoolers (3-5, go by themselves) 10:30 and 11:30.

The session begins January 11 and runs through February 15.

Sign up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the year will be March 1.



## Library's Gone to the Dogs!

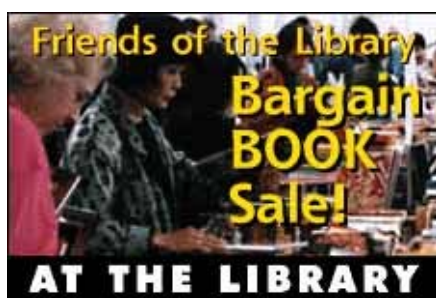
Children learning to read may feel self-conscious reading in front of other people. Reading to a dog can help them practice their skills! If your child would benefit from this opportunity, come to the Library's *Gone to the Dogs* program. Kids can read to a Welcome Wagger\* dog on Saturday, January 29 and February 26 (no session in December). No registration required. 10:30 – 11:30. (\*Certified Therapy Dog)



**Don't forget Dial-a-Story at 825-0555. It's free. The stories change each week, so be sure to call often.**

## Friends

### FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOKSTORE HOURS:



Monday: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The Friends of the Culpeper County Library and Voices of the Blue Ridge will host

**Betty Kilby Fisher on Sunday, January 16, 2005.**

Plans are still being completed, but mark your calendars for this exciting speaker. Ms. Fisher is the author of *Wit, Will & Walls*. Betty was an infant plaintiff in the case of Betty Ann Kolby vs. Warren County Board of Education. Look for more information on our website or in the monthly newsletter.





## Culpeper County Library (*continued*)



Your volunteers at the Culpeper County Library Book Store send holiday greetings to you and thank your for your support.

Looking for some really easy shopping, no gift wrap needed, no drain on your pocket book? Here's our idea:

1. Visit the Friends of the Library Book Store. We are located in the Culpeper County Library, at the back, next to the computer room.
2. Select great books for your favorite people. We have some new and recent books, collector's books, used hard backs and paperbacks to choose from. Prices range from 25 cents-50 cents for used; up to a few dollars for new, recent, and collector's selections.
3. Wrapping? Oh no! On your way out of the library, stop at the main desk, purchase one of our super sturdy, large book bags for only \$6.00
4. Visit a nearby bargain store, buy a large bow. Voila! Christmas shopping at its best.

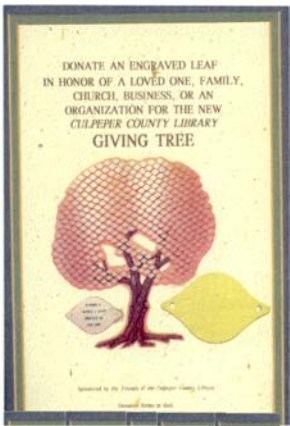
Perhaps your children would like to go Christmas shopping and use their own "piggy bank" money! Good way to solve what to get for their friends? Can't manage to get to the library during book store hours? Visit our tiny corner "branch" on your right as you enter the main library. The circulation desk will be happy to serve you.



The Library is proud to present our most recent addition - Wi-Fi or wireless Internet service for the public. Anyone with a wireless connection to their laptop or PDA can connect. The library has had a T-1 since we opened in 1998.

## Need a great gift idea for that person who has everything?

Support the library by sponsoring a leaf on the Giving Tree located in the Meeting Room. Your tax deductible gift is a great way to honor a special friend or family member. Each leaf has space for a four line inscription of your choice. Applications are available at the Circulation Desk. New leaves will be dedicated at the Friends of the Library Annual Meeting.



**Third Thursday Book Discussion Groups** meet the Third Thursday of each month at 10:00 and 7:00 to discuss various books. Try out our book discussion groups which meet the third Thursday . A list of selected books for 2004 -2005 discussions are available at the Circulation Desk.

January 20 : ***Roxanna Slade*** by Reynolds Price  
February 17: ***The Hemingway Book Club of Kosovo*** by Paula Huntley  
March 17: ***Charm School*** by Nelson DeMille

The books for discussion are available for one-week checkout at the Circulation Desk or may be purchased at a discount at The Corner Shelf Bookstore.  
New members are always welcomed –come and join us at our next meeting.



## Culpeper County Library (*continued*)



### *HeritageQuest Online:*

*The Library has available a “unique, growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture.” Amateur or professional genealogists may now use this “powerful online library, with original page images for all documents,” either at home or at the Library. Simply go to our homepage and link up!*

Both the Friends of the Library and the Children’s Department are working on very special programs to celebrate African-American History Month. Keep watch for more information, dates, and times as the date draws nearer.

### LIBRARY ADDS NEW RESOURCES

*Cutting-edge information sources make the Reference Department equal to major universities*

Through **Find IT Virginia**, a service from the Library of Virginia, Culpeper residents who have a card with the public library can access a wealth of information 24 hours a day at home, at work, or anywhere you connect to the Internet.

In a variety of electronic databases, you can find magazine and newspaper articles, encyclopedias and other reference works, TV and radio transcripts, company information and investment reports, health and wellness information, and homework help, plus photos, charts, maps, diagrams, and illustrations.

**Find It Virginia** is part of the “Infopowering the Commonwealth” initiative, a cooperative project of the Library of Virginia and Virginia's public libraries, which is designed to promote and support public access computing, Internet connectivity, and quality information resources in all Virginia public libraries. Through statewide funding, all the residents of the Commonwealth have equal access to essential resources for life-long learning.

Accessing the databases is simple, provided you have your library card handy. Visit the library’s web page at <http://tlc.library.net/culpeper> click on “Find It Virginia,” and follow the instructions. Please contact the Information Desk if you have any questions.



### Holiday Hours

The library staff and volunteers wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season. We will be closed for the holidays

December 24 – 26

and January 1 – 2.

For your convenience the library will be open for Lee/Jackson Day and Martin Luther King’s Birthday.

### Culpeper County Library

271 Southgate Shopping Center

<http://tlc.library.net/culpeper>

540-825-8691



**REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION**  
PLANNING DISTRICT #9  
CULPEPER, MADISON, ORANGE & RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTIES

Many adults who did not complete a high school program of instruction have continued to learn through a variety of experiences encountered in everyday life. The purpose of the GED Testing Program is to provide an opportunity for these individuals to have the learning acquired from such educational experiences evaluated and recognized. The GED Tests make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a high school credential, thus providing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of adults to:

- Pursue higher education
- Obtain jobs or job promotions
- Achieve personal goals

**WHAT ARE THE GED TESTS?**

The Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests) are internationally recognized. They have been designed to measure major academic skills and knowledge in core content areas learned during four years of high school.

When an adult passes the 7 ½- hour battery of GED Tests, the resulting GED credential certifies that he or she has attained subject matter knowledge and skills associated with high school completion. The GED Tests include the following subject area tests:

- Language Arts, Writing
- Social Studies
- Science
- Language Arts, Reading
- Mathematics

The GED Tests are offered in English and Spanish editions.

**The Carver Center for Applied Learning**  
**GED Testing Schedule**  
**Denise S. Vogt, Chief Examiner**

January 21 & 22, 2005  
February 11 & 12, 2005  
March 4 & 5, 2005  
April 8 & 9, 2005  
May 20 & 21, 2005  
June 24 & 25, 2005

The Carver Center for Applied Learning is opened to take your GED application Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Additionally, we are open late on Monday and Thursday evening until 8:00 p.m.

Effective June 1, 2004, all test takers must be assessed prior to signing up for the GED test. This assessment is free and is given the first Thursday of each month. Registration is required.



Start Your Education and  
Start Your Engines for a Better Job!

**REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION *(continued)***  
**(540) 825-0476**

Register for Adult Classes in your area for **GED** Preparation, or work on your reading, writing and math skills.  
Call for information. **Regional Adult Education** (540) 825-0476

**Carver Center GED** - 9 a.m.-12:00 noon/Tues. & Thurs.  
Carver-Piedmont School, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA

**Culpeper GED** -5:30-8:00 p.m./Tues. & Thurs.  
Culpeper Literacy Council, 501 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA

**Culpeper Literacy Council GED** -9:00 –11:30 a.m./Mon. & Wed.  
501 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA

**Culpeper/Rappahannock ESOL-English As A Second Language**  
6:30-9:00 p.m./Tues. & Thurs.  
Culpeper Career Resource Center, 219 E. Davis Street, Culpeper, VA  
& Culpeper Depot, 113 S. Commerce St., Culpeper, VA

**GED Fast Track**-5:30-8:30 p.m./Mon. & Thurs.  
Carver-Piedmont School, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA

**Morning ESOL**-9:00-11:30 a.m./Mon. & Wed.  
Carver-Piedmont School, 9432 James Madison Highway., Rapidan, VA

**Regional TFL**-5:30-8:00 p.m./Mon. & Thurs.  
Carver-Piedmont School, 9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA

**Literacy Council of Madison GED** - 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon/Tues. & Thurs.  
Madison Literacy Council, Thrift Road, Old School Board Building, Madison, VA

**Madison GED**-6:00-8:30 p.m./Tues. & Thurs.  
Madison Literacy Council, Thrift Road. Old School Board Building, Madison, VA

**Gordonsville GED**-6:30-9:00 p.m./Mon. & Wed.  
Gordon-Barbour Elem. Library, 500 W. Baker St., Gordonsville, VA

**Orange GED**-6:30-9:00 p.m./Tues. & Thurs.  
Orange County High School, Room #136, 201 Selma Rd., Orange, VA

**Orange GED Fast Track**-6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m./Tues. & Thurs.  
Prospect Heights Annex, 200 Macon Drive, Orange, VA

**Orange/Madison ESOL-English As A Second Language**- 7:00-9:00 p.m./Mon.  
Orange Presbyterian Church, 162 W. Main St., Orange, VA

**Rappahannock GED**-7:00-9:00 p.m./Mon. & Thurs.  
Rappahannock County Library, 4 Library Rd., Washington, VA

## New! Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training Programs Get Busy Learning Today at GWC!

Learn to Earn at GWC—"Get busy learning today ..." urges the new slogan attached to the revolutionary educational concept emerging at the **George Washington Carver Applied Learning and Entrepreneur Center** located in the old regional high school on Route 15 in Rapidan. The 56-year-old building, originally built to educate the African American high school students in this region, has risen from the ashes of near abandonment, with innovative plans to offer vocational and entrepreneurial programs to post secondary and adult students. Plans for the Center, referred to by its acronym GWC, include applied learning programs that give back to the community, while preparing the student for paid employment in the trades or for entrepreneurial success.

This unique educational concept is the vision of **Ramon Serrato**, president and owner of Roca Management Education and Training, Inc. (RMETI). RMETI is currently working with the County to renovate the G.W. Carver Center and to revitalize its educational value to the community. According to Serrato, vocational programs scheduled to begin in 2004-05 include welding, facilities maintenance, magazine publishing and sound recording.

### Practical Application of Classroom Learning will be Part of Every Program

#### Vocational Training (the Mission)

##### Welding

GWC has 12 newly renovated and fully operational welding bays. A complete welding curriculum taught by *Welder Testing and Training Institute* (WTTI) of Woodbridge will begin this year. Students can choose from a 120 hour *Introduction to Welding* for those with no experience, or can contract hourly to work with WTTI's instructors to practice for their industry certification or qualification exams. Welding skills training available through GWC include Oxygen Acetylene Cutting and Welding, basic and advanced Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding and Gas Metal Arc Welding. A 320 hour combination course designed to prepare individuals for employment is also available.

According to welding instructor Fred Parsels of WTTI, those students who successfully complete the course will be able to meet welding industry standards and will be prepared to work in light construction, maintenance, production and assembly positions. Job placement assistance is available through RMETI. Eligible individuals may receive tuition assistance. An open house to showcase the welding program at GWC will be held December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm – 4 pm, on site in the welding labs at GWC. For more information contact Betty Roberts at (540) 825-2817.

##### Facilities Maintenance

Other vocational programs planned for 2005 include Facilities Maintenance, a wide ranging curriculum for individuals interested in managing and maintaining large buildings. Skills for this vocation include HVAC, carpentry, electrical installation and repair, plumbing and masonry. **As part of their course work, students will assist with the maintenance and renovation of the George Washington Carver building and grounds.**

According to Serrato, the "real student project" component of every class is the unique core of the RMETI concept of community-enhancing vocational training. "Practical application of class-

room learning will be part of every program, organization and activity operating from the GWC campus," says Serrato. "Every program will share in the care, maintenance, well-being and livelihood of the Center."

##### Sound Recording

Beginning in January 2005, GWC will offer basic and advanced training in multi-track recording, digital home studio recording and digital mastering. Classes will meet in the new 3000 square foot **RockRoom Recording Studio** in the GWC Center. The recording studio has five isolation booths, professional caliber recording equipment, and 37 guitars, as well as a piano and drums. Music classes and sound engineering classes will be taught by Dave McNally, a 20-year veteran of the recording industry. McNally, who built the studio himself, plans to provide recording services to aspiring musicians, while giving interested young people a chance to learn the trade. "I am hoping (the studio) will attract a lot of young people," says McNally. "Kids are dropping out of high school, and this is an alternative opportunity for them."

#### Entrepreneur Programs (Fund-Raising and Vision)

While vocational programs will provide the care and maintenance, as well as the core mission of the Center, the well-being and livelihood will ultimately come from the revenues generated by the entrepreneurial classes and other fundraising efforts. Entrepreneurial programs are currently under the direction of **Greg Shields**, RMETI's Director of Training, Education and Entrepreneur Programs. According to Shields, the entrepreneurial potential of the Center is unlimited. Ideas range from a distribution warehouse for items sold through the on-line auction house *E-bay*, to a direct mail retail business for exclusively Virginia-made items and a 64-page, full-color, glossy magazine, *Simply Virginia*, showcasing the unique lifestyle in the Commonwealth and advertising exclusively Virginia products.

**George Washington Carver Applied Learning and Entrepreneur Center (540)825-2817**



GWC - Vocational and Entrepreneurial Training Programs (continued)

Valiant Virginians

According to Shields, RMETI is well aware that funding for GWC instructional programs and re-occurring operating expenses is a key for long-term success. The unique GWC privately funded education concept includes various fund-raising activities in addition to entrepreneurial ventures. The operating budget for the Center will be organized and coordinated under the name *Valiant Virginians*, a non-profit 501(c)(3) (applied for) foundation. As a non-profit, *Valiant Virginians* will actively seek out educational grants, manage several unique fund-raising efforts, and officially manage and operate a “for profit” ecommerce business to provide capital for operating expenses.

Simplyvirginia.com

Shields has several projects slated for development under the *Valiant Virginians* umbrella. **Simplyvirginia.com** a “for profit” e-commerce website specializing in Virginia made products will provide funds, not tied to the specific spending restrictions of a grant, that can be “allocated to meet strategically targeted needs such as building operating expenses,” says Shields.

Shifting Gears Sports Car Raffle

Another venture, scheduled to kick off in January 2005, is the **Shifting Gears Sports Car Raffle**. As envisioned by Shields, *Valiant Virginians* staff and volunteers will raffle a 1965 vintage Corvette Stingray Coupe. Plans call for the nationwide sale of 3800 tickets over a 9-12 month period at \$100 per ticket.

Local businesses, regional Chevrolet dealers in particular, can help *Valiant Virginians* raise funds for the Center by displaying the 1965 Corvette, a car once featured on the cover of *Motor Trend Magazine*, on their lots.

For more information, contact Greg Shields at 1-800-379-5956 or [gshields@simplyvrginia.com](mailto:gshields@simplyvrginia.com).

Magazine Publishing

Other entrepreneurial efforts vital to the success of GWC have already begun. Currently the entrepreneurial class, “**Cover to Cover Magazine Publishing**” meets weekly at the Center. Nine adult students with varying but complementary backgrounds are learning the publishing business from the former editor of *Albemarle Magazine*, Ruth Hart. The class hopes to develop a prototype of *Simply Virginia* early in 2005, with the first issue scheduled for 2006. All profits from the sale of subscriptions and advertising will become part of the future operating budget for the George Washington Carver Center.

The next class begins January 12, 2005.

For more information contact Betty Roberts, 540 825-2817.

George Washington Carver  
Applied Learning and Entrepreneurial Center  
9432 James Madison Highway, Rapidan, VA  
(540) 825-2817

In the Works....

Other Vocational Programs

RMETI took over the management of the Center in July of this year with funding provided by the Culpeper Board of Supervisors. In addition to completing important renovations with the help and support of community volunteers, and establishing the welding and publishing programs, RMETI is negotiating agreements with various industry representatives to provide additional vocational training.

Culinary

Before too long, the halls of GWC will be filed with the aroma of good food and dessert. John Yarnell, owner and Chef of *It's About Thyme* in Culpeper, is well known for his creative culinary skills. Soon, he will be known as the headmaster of his own Culinary School at GWC. Mr. Yarnell is already author of a culinary arts curriculum that is followed by all of *It's About Thyme* personnel. At a minimum, the Culinary curriculum covers the following: baking; controlling costs in food service; culinary skill development; food preparation; food purchasing; food service math; garden-manager; international cuisine; introduction to food service; kitchen management; management and human resources; menu

and facilities design; nutrition; nutrition and food service; patisserie; sanitation; saucier; seafood processing; soup, stock, sauce and starch production; wines and spirits.

In coordination with RMETI, *It's About Thyme* will develop a two-year Culinary Arts program that will pursue accreditation by the American Culinary Federation Accrediting Commission.

According to Serrato, other vocational programs planned for the near future at GWC include **Commercial Driver's License (CDL)**, both Class A and Class B. **Heavy Equipment Operations** including **Materials Handling Equipment** such as fork lifts, bucket loaders and cranes; **Machinist and Milling** training; **Diesel Mechanics** training; and **Lineman Pre-apprenticeship** programs for high school students.

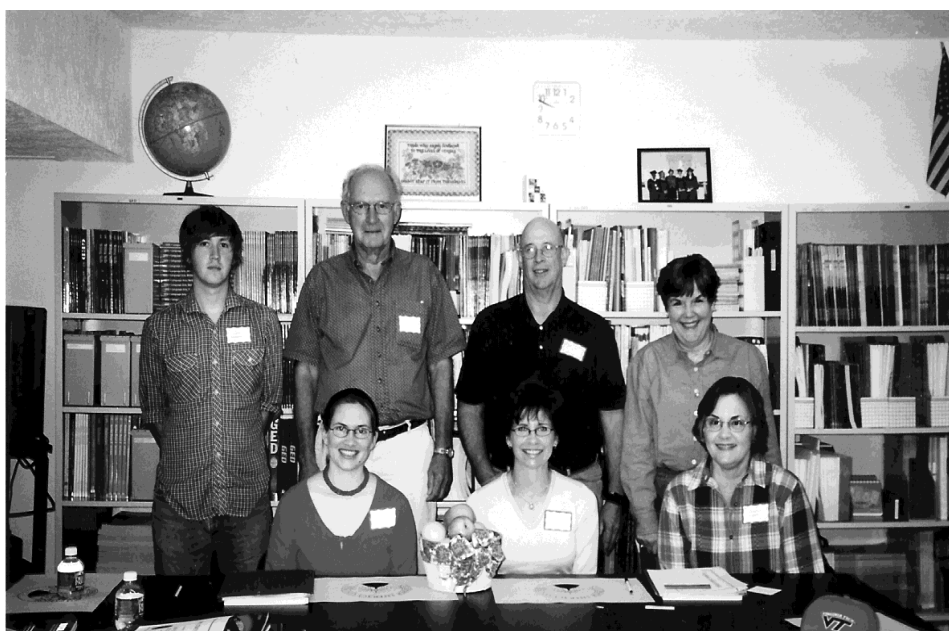
Community Education

RMETI continues to work closely with other community education providers operating out of the Center, including Adult Basic Literacy (GED and ESOL classes), Germanna Community College (Automotive Technician) and the Association of Electric Cooperatives, (Lineman and Groundsman training).

Questions and requests for further information should be directed to Betty Roberts, former executive director of the Culpeper United Way. She can be reached at (540) 825-2817.

# CULPEPER LITERACY COUNCIL

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT  
OUR MOST RECENTLY TRAINED TUTORS!



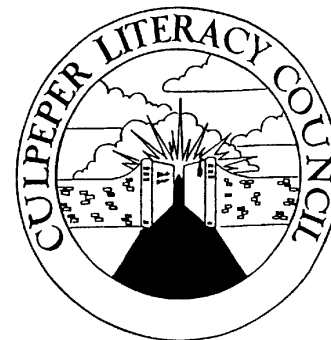
**Seated l to r: Emily Sims, Leanne Rutkowski, Sandra Kidwell (Educational Coordinator)**  
**Standing: Sam Vanneman, Harry Wicht, Bill Holman and Patty Olms**

We provide volunteer one-on-one tutors for people wishing to learn to read, improve their literacy skills, or learn English as a second language. We also have tutors working with inmates at the Culpeper jail who want to earn their GED. There are no fees for our services, and confidentiality is our policy.

How can you help? Make referrals, become a tutor, or make a donation!

## EACH ONE, TEACH ONE

**It's a community effort!**  
To find out more call **825-5804**



## Applications being accepted for Germanna's NEW Middle College Program at NO Tuition Cost

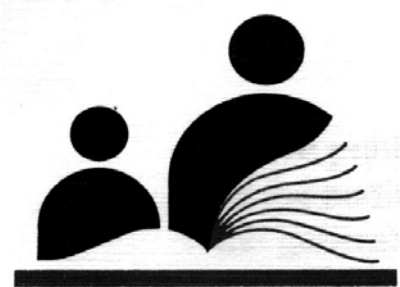


LOCUST GROVE, VA - The Middle College Program, located at the Locust Grove Campus of Germanna Community College, is currently accepting applications for admission.

Middle College is a comprehensive college recovery program designed to assist 18-to 24-year olds who do not have a high school diploma or GED. The goal of the Middle College program is for students to pass the GED and continue with completion of a college certificate, diploma, or degree program at Germanna.

The program will help 35 selected students obtain a GED, workforce readiness certification, and entrance into college courses. The program will also focus on the development of job skills. Tuition, textbooks, testing fees, and educational supplies are provided free of charge to students selected for the program.

**If you are interested in preparing for the GED and furthering your education in a college setting , or wish to refer someone to the Middle College, please call Carolyn Bynum, Middle College Program Director at (540) 727-3112. Or stop by room 205-J at Germanna's Locust Grove Campus.**



## CULPEPER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FEATURED IN NEW SHOW ON CHANNEL 21

By Larry Parker, Public Information Officer, Culpeper County Public Schools

*"Educationally Speaking,"* a new show that is profiling each of CCPS' schools and principals during its first 8-episode "season" this fall and winter, premiered on October 6 and is running periodically on local public access Channel 21 on Adelphia Cable.

Each episode features an interview with the principal of a Culpeper County school and ties the subjects discussed in the interview to footage shot at that school. The three episodes so far have featured:

- Dr. C. Eric Porter, newly appointed principal at Culpeper County High School
- Mr. Russell Houck, principal at Sycamore Park Elementary School
- Mrs. Susan Bridges, principal at A.G. Richardson Elementary School

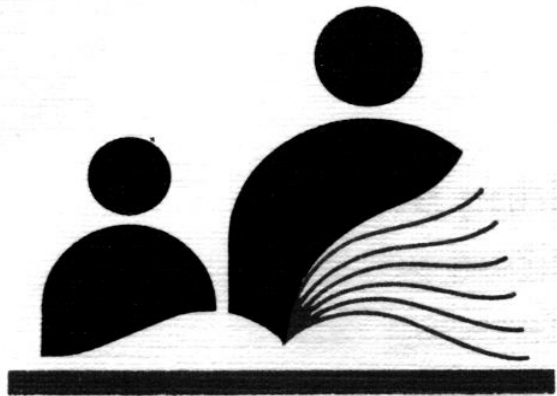
The show, which averages 20-25 minutes in length, is hosted by CCPS Public Information Officer Larry Parker. Topics so far have included biographical sketches of each of the principals; discussion of the unique educational programs and opportunities at each school; and thoughts on the role each school plays in the larger Culpeper County community.

Parker said his goal for the show is to give a basic introduction about each school to viewers who do not have a child or grandchild at a given school – and a "nugget," something interesting they didn't already know, to the viewers who do have children at the school.

The show, conceived by Channel 21 chief executive Stan Karas, is based on the popular *"Medically Speaking"* show already airing on Channel 21 profiling the doctors, services, and treatments available at Culpeper Regional Hospital.

New episodes of *"Educationally Speaking"* are shot every two to three weeks, and shows about more of Culpeper County's 8 schools should be on air in the near future.





## Culpeper County Public Schools

### Culpeper Schools Foundation

#### FILLING IN THE GAPS FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

By Larry Parker, Public Information Officer, Culpeper County Public Schools  
And Jennifer Biche, Culpeper Schools Foundation

Back-to-school time is an exciting time of year – if sometimes an expensive one for parents, parents, and even teachers—and not just for bright new back-to-school outfits.

At a time when all levels of government – including the Culpeper County Public Schools – are trying to use tax dollars with maximum efficiency, such cost-cutting leaves an ever-longer supply list every year for both teachers and parents to pay for with their own funds.

Gaps like these – for key instructional materials that are not just “optional,” are more than “luxuries,” yet cannot be budgeted for in these tight times – are those that the year-old Culpeper Schools Foundation has set out to fill.

Culpeper Schools Foundation (CSF) is a charitable non-profit organization created in 2003 by community leaders, concerned parents and citizens who wanted to help meet the financial needs of the growing public school system. After a successful and rewarding first year, CSF is enthusiastic about continuing its growth and vision for this year.

Much of last year was spent on establishing the legal foundation for CSF - administrative tasks such as completing documents and tax forms and electing a Board of Directors. Even so, the Foundation was able raise enough money to donate two \$500 prize awards to student essay contest winners.

In May, the Foundation held its biggest fundraiser yet, a “Cow Pie Bingo” contest at the Bull Run Point-to-Point Races. For \$10, each contest entrant picked a square marked out in a pasture where they thought a cow would ... well, fill in the gap. A top prize of \$500 was awarded.

Thanks to the success of this event and others, and partnerships with local businesses, the Foundation gave its biggest gift yet in August.

CSF donated \$2,500 to Culpeper County’s approximately 100 new teachers, through the purchase of \$25 gift cards from Wal-Mart, to use to purchase school supplies for their classrooms. CSF recognized that most teachers spend a substantial amount of their own money to buy supplies they need for their classrooms, and wanted to help our newest teachers get the tools they needed to start their new careers here in Culpeper.

This fall, CSF has planned several more fund raising events with the family and community in mind. The Foundation’s leaders put careful thought into selecting fund-raising events that are family-oriented and that involve partnerships with local businesses, to keep the community thriving.

CSF hopes to build a larger partnership among our schools, faculty, administrators, parents, community leaders and local businesses so that all may mutually benefit. Please consider a membership with the Foundation (\$25 for individuals and \$100 for businesses), or another donation. You may keep current on the Foundation’s events by logging onto <http://www.culpeperschoolsfoundation.com> And of course, CSF encourages you to attend its fund-raising events.

Together we can make a difference!

**Culpeper Schools Foundation**

**P.O. Box 747**

**Culpeper, VA 22701**

<http://www.culpeperschoolsfoundation.com>

## KID CENTRAL NEWS

www:kidcentralculpeperva.com

### 'SCRIBBLES'

Up-Coming Holiday and  
Teacher Work Day Events.....

All Day Child Care At Sycamore  
Park Elementary School

6:30 a.m.to 6:30 p.m. Themes:

December 22 "Oh, Christmas Tree"

December 23 "Santa Claus Is Coming To  
Town"

December 24 "We Wish You A Merry  
Christmas "CLOSE 3:00 p.m.

December 27 "Let It Snow, Let It Snow,  
Let It Snow"

December 28 "Frosty The Snowman"

December 29 "Sleigh Bells Ring"

December 30 "Jingle Bells"

December 31 "Happy New Year"  
CLOSE 3:00 p.m.

January 17 "African Birthday Party"

January 21 "South African Safari"

January 24 "A View Of Africa"

February 21 "Japanese Birthday Party"

**PLEASE PACK A LUNCH!**

**PLEASE CALL 829-2124 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER  
YOUR CHILD.**



### TO ATTEND KID CENTRAL:

Before & After School or The All Day Child  
Care Events—Your child must have a com-  
pleted registration form turned in prior to  
attending. Also, if a trip is planned, a per-  
mission form and payment for the trip must  
be made to guarantee your child's slot.

Please call 829-2124.

**NO DROP-IN CHILDCARE.**

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER:

KID CENTRAL makes every effort to be  
open during all school closings, including bad  
weather.

If the radio announces school has a de-  
layed opening, childcare is held at your  
child's childcare site.

If the radio announces school is closed,  
childcare will be held at Sycamore Park  
Elementary School for all REGISTERED  
children. PLEASE PACK LUNCH.

Please listen to:

**WJMA 103.1 FM Radio**

Regarding KID CENTRAL hours.